



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending August 15, 2010

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Good Week for Field Work: While there have been a few much needed showers around the state some counties are still in a deficit for the summer. Conditions have been excellent for haymaking in some counties around the state. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were harvesting vegetables, apples, third cuttings of hay, and beginning harvest of corn silage, followed up by preparations to seed the alfalfa fields.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending August 15, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
10	28	61	1

Crop Progress: Corn dough averages out at 52% compared to last year's 31% and the average of 43%. The average corn height is 85 inches tall, compared to last year's 84 inches, and the 5 year average of 80 inches. Harvested oats are at 95%, ahead of last year's 68% and the average of 78%. Soybean blooming is at 92%, ahead of a 23% average. Soybean pod setting is at 73%, ahead of the 5 year average of 12%. Alfalfa third cutting is at 92%, well ahead of last year's 55% and the 68% average. Timothy/Clover second cutting is at 89% with 74% last year and 73% average. Peach harvest is 74%, ahead of last year's 66% and the average of 61%. Apples harvested are at 25%, above last year's 28%, and the 5 year average of 24%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn condition is 6% very poor, 14% poor, 27% fair, 41% good, and 12% excellent. Soybean conditions are 1% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 54% good, and 17% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are 6% poor, 25% fair, 47% good, and 22% excellent. Timothy/Clover stand conditions are 2% very poor, 12% poor, 35% fair, 47% good, and 4% excellent. The quality of hay made is 2% very poor, 2% poor, 15% fair, 47% good, and 34% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 14% very poor, 21% poor, 37% fair, 23% good and 5% excellent. Apple conditions are 1% poor, 18% fair, 44% good, and 33% excellent.

Nationwide as of August 8, 2010: Unusually warm temperatures continued throughout much of the country east of the Great Plains, reaching as many as 8 degrees above normal in portions of the Delta and Southeast during the week. Conversely, much of the Four Corners region experienced below average temperatures, falling to as many as 8 degrees below normal in parts of Arizona and Utah. Above average precipitation was scattered across the United States during the week, limiting fieldwork in some areas

while providing much needed moisture in others. Widespread rainfall totaling 200 percent or more above normal fell in the Four Corners region, while parts of the Delta, Florida, New England, and South Carolina received isolated pockets of moisture totaling 4 inches or more. **Corn:** By week's end, 97 percent of the Nation's corn crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Near to above average temperatures throughout the major corn-producing areas promoted rapid phenological development of the crop during the week. Twenty-one percent of this year's crop reached the dough stage during the week pushing overall progress to 52 percent complete, or 29 percentage points ahead of last year and 12 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. By August 8, fourteen percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dented stage, 9 percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 71 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from ratings last week but 3 percentage points better than the same time last year. In Iowa, corn condition ratings remained virtually unchanged for the third consecutive week despite some reports of yellowing due to nitrogen deficiency and continued above average rainfall across much of the State. **Soybeans:** Nationally, 93 percent of the soybean crop was at or beyond the blooming stage by August 8, eight percentage points ahead of last year and 3 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Blooming was complete or nearly complete throughout much of the Corn Belt and Delta. Pod setting was evident in 71 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 19 percentage points ahead of last year and 4 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Most notably, pod setting was 10 percentage points or more ahead of normal in Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and North Dakota. Overall, 66 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from both ratings last week and the same time last year. **Winter Wheat:** Harvest advanced to 87 percent complete by August 8, two percentage points behind last year and 6 percentage points behind the 5-year average. Despite producers utilizing nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork to harvest 10 percent or more of their winter wheat crop, double-digit delays remained in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Small Grains: Oat producers harvested 21 percent of the Nation's crop during the week, leaving progress, at 68 percent complete, 26 percentage points ahead of last year and 5 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 77 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition as harvest surpassed the midpoint, up slightly from ratings last week and 21 percentage points better than the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending August 15, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - August 15, 2010					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	90	67	77	7	0.06	1	16.13	0.09	55	2,267	525	3,535
Franklin	89	60	75	7	2.20	4	18.75	-0.07	58	2,159	507	3,428
Meadville	87	59	75	8	1.16	3	19.07	0.73	68	2,073	559	3,336
Mercer	89	59	76	7	1.28	3	19.39	1.65	69	2,165	529	3,445
Springboro	87	59	74	4	0.87	2	21.73	5.65	60	1,939	201	3,159
Warren	88	56	74	6	0.23	3	15.57	-2.98	54	1,998	389	3,248
North Central												
Bradford Region	84	54	70	6	0.38	3	17.47	-1.26	57	1,612	430	2,807
Oswayo	88	50	71	6	0.69	5	18.73	1.01	63	1,630	325	2,812
Kane	85	51	70	7	0.57	3	16.86	-2.01	55	1,597	432	2,782
Laporte	84	60	71	2	2.39	1	15.59	-1.78	65	1,885	231	3,116
Lock Haven	93	55	74	5	2.55	5	14.94	-2.12	48	2,323	574	3,631
Port Allegany	86	56	71	7	0.28	4	15.80	-1.92	60	1,762	457	2,973
Renovo	90	56	73	4	1.29	5	16.01	-1.05	55	2,219	470	3,525
Ridgway	87	50	71	5	0.85	3	15.78	-3.26	57	1,767	446	2,989
Stevenson Dam	90	54	73	8	0.93	3	15.21	-3.83	53	2,095	774	3,382
Towanda	92	51	73	4	1.04	2	12.01	-2.37	46	2,026	359	3,297
Wellsboro	85	51	69	4	1.11	3	15.21	0.69	53	1,709	457	2,937
Williamsport	93	60	76	5	1.24	3	14.37	-2.67	51	2,558	627	3,896
Northeast												
Hawley	88	56	71	4	1.51	2	15.45	-0.82	48	1,850	428	3,084
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	92	65	76	6	0.14	2	9.36	-6.65	43	2,385	548	3,675
Susquehanna	88	57	72	7	0.78	2	15.81	-1.65	57	1,977	613	3,237
West Central												
Butler	90	55	75	6	2.63	3	23.18	5.41	60	2,121	409	3,400
New Castle	94	58	78	9	2.94	3	21.00	4.79	56	2,357	640	3,651
Slippery Rock	95	56	77	10	1.09	3	18.71	1.48	61	2,209	659	3,500
Central												
Altoona/Blair	90	58	74	4	1.25	2	17.56	1.83	54	2,287	450	3,587
DuBois	86	58	73	5	0.68	4	15.67	-2.10	61	2,056	459	3,337
Lewistown	94	60	75	3	1.09	3	14.81	-2.23	47	2,438	426	3,769
Middletown	95	66	79	5	1.26	3	18.02	1.52	40	2,813	544	4,164
Prince Gallitzi	90	50	72	6	0.83	2	18.05	-2.14	51	1,891	422	3,159
Selinsgrove	93	60	75	5	0.68	4	11.12	-5.97	42	2,379	494	3,698
State College	90	57	74	4	1.37	4	13.74	-1.99	49	2,346	527	3,654
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	93	64	77	5	0.25	1	18.65	1.00	41	2,528	447	3,848
Lehighton	90	60	74	2	0.43	1	16.33	-1.29	45	2,268	259	3,581
Matamoras	89	56	72	2	0.08	2	13.82	-4.34	46	2,057	237	3,334
Mt_Pocono	91	58	72	7	0.21	2	12.07	-6.96	52	1,989	738	3,241
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	63	78	9	0.75	3	16.04	-0.77	56	2,593	749	3,906
Indiana_PA	89	57	74	5	1.22	3	19.20	-0.28	67	2,107	329	3,396
Myersdale	88	50	70	1	0.08	1	14.45	-4.68	57	1,680	-13	2,916
Mount Pleasant	90	58	76	8	0.46	2	17.47	-2.05	50	2,244	703	3,530
Pittsburgh Intl	93	61	79	9	1.01	2	16.18	0.37	52	2,540	611	3,849
Connellsville	92	60	78	7	0.02	1	18.35	-0.34	59	2,464	502	3,773
Waynesburg	92	55	76	7	0.23	1	15.75	-1.57	45	2,307	522	3,597
South Central												
Biglerville	96	64	77	4	1.99	2	12.27	-2.95	34	2,622	402	3,953
Everett	92	57	74	4	1.75	3	15.60	0.27	51	2,148	333	3,443
Hanover	93	62	76	3	2.50	3	13.80	-1.42	42	2,607	387	3,935
Harrisburg_AP	95	66	78	4	3.97	3	20.59	4.09	44	2,735	459	4,079
South Mountain	92	60	73	3	2.38	3	12.47	-3.26	42	2,115	285	3,401
York	94	65	77	4	2.12	3	15.88	-0.96	44	2,531	322	3,854
Southeast												
Green Lane	93	63	77	6	0.57	2	13.26	-4.01	42	2,618	635	3,958
Hamburg	92	64	76	6	0.63	2	17.76	-2.50	48	2,573	758	3,907
West_Chester	94	64	78	5	2.06	1	18.72	-0.24	34	2,568	370	3,898
Lancaster	94	64	77	5	0.84	3	14.03	-3.70	42	2,645	556	3,976
Neshaminy Falls	95	60	78	5	0.16	2	11.10	-9.09	41	2,689	617	4,036
New Holland	93	65	78	5	1.20	2	15.62	-2.11	44	2,650	561	3,980
Philadelphia	96	67	82	7	0.11	1	13.66	-3.61	39	3,182	794	4,549
Philadelphia NE	95	63	80	4	0.33	2	11.87	-5.40	50	2,961	573	4,319
Reading	96	64	79	7	0.31	2	13.74	-5.01	43	2,825	772	4,174
Sellersville	93	63	77	5	0.14	1	13.91	-3.36	41	2,435	452	3,749
Willow Grove	93	63	78	5	0.45	2	13.20	-6.99	36	2,783	711	4,132

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney (FSA)

Rains varied; even across the road from one side to the other the accumulations were different. Corn is still growing in most parts of the county; however, where the drought was more severe the corn is past coming back. Corn silage is being harvested. Some parts of the county have some nice corn, where other areas are still only 2-3 feet high. Soybeans continue to look good, but whether or not the pods will fill out is still to be determined. Hay is now greening a little from the end of the week rainfall. Another cutting will come if the weather continues. Fruit crops continue to be harvested. Peaches, apples and plums are looking pretty good but some of those were irrigated during the drought. Peaches are sweeter due to the dry weather. Sweet corn continues to be harvested. Other vegetable crops are doing ok if they were irrigated. Overall the crops in Adams County are doing pretty well. Producers are preparing for harvest and seeding of fall crops.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT)

The corn silage harvest has started, about two weeks sooner than normal. Yields will be down on many farms due to the excessive heat and lack of moisture. Some areas have not seen measurable rain for over three weeks. New seedings of grass hay and pasture have been put on hold until we get some rain.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

We had 3.6 inches of badly needed rainfall during the week. The field work included alfalfa seeding and cutting hay in the early part of the week.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner (FSA)

Producers with silage are saying that harvesting should begin in early September.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dave Reedy (FSA)

We received a couple tenths of much needed rain last week, but we still remain in a summertime deficit. Short season vegetables are definitely affected already, and full season grains will probably see some yield drops at this point. How severe of a yield drop depends on the rest of the season.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)

Corn and soybeans are looking good for this time of year. Dairy producers are finishing up on the 3rd cutting of alfalfa, and some have started on a 4th. Pastures have held up surprisingly good this year due to timely rains hitting our region.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT)

Rains during the mid-week were variable. Another shot of rain on Sunday was close to 0.5 inches. This has really freshened things up. The rain was great timing for stressed soybeans. It was an excellent week for the later cuttings of alfalfa and grass hay.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy L Lewis (FSA)

Rainfall is short in some areas. As normal with the lake effect, rain is localized in certain areas of the county.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Finally, there was a good period of rain last week. Several days of cool and damp weather may help to revive the pastures. It is too late for the corn though. The rain will help the apples.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff

All of my oats have been combined. We need a little rain. The ground is a little on the dry side. We also need the rain to keep the corn and soybeans growing. It has been good growing weather for both of them. We have some alfalfa that is looking good, and hope the weather is nice this week to get it round baled. Hope everyone has a safe farming week.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Corn silage will begin on many farms this week, especially those which experienced significant drought stress.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Most of next week should be excellent hay making weather. The local pumpkin growers are reporting orange color on certain varieties. The silage corn harvest should begin shortly in our area.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Much of the area received moderate to heavy rainfall during the week. Prior to the rains, the corn and soybeans were heavily stressed. The third cutting of hay is nearly completed. Preparations are being made for fall seeding. There were no reports of cutting silage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)

Spotty showers have left some areas without rain. Corn and soybeans in those areas will probably experience some yield reductions.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl (EXT)

Earlier in the week, the corn suffering from the effects of drought were turning brown. Extreme moisture stress on soybeans could be seen in poor areas of fields. Leaf diseases on corn are progressing up the plants. A much needed rain arrived Thursday afternoon, with amounts up to 3.0 inches. Downpours caused local flooding and sediment run-off.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending August 15, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	7	2	8
Corn, dough	52	31	43
Corn, dent	17	6	13
Corn average height, inches	85	84	80
Corn silage, harvested	7	1	3
Oats, harvested	95	68	78
Potatoes, harvested	11	15	13
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	92	55	68
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	18	6	6
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	89	74	73
Peaches, harvested	74	66	61
Apples, harvested	27	28	24

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending August 15, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	6	14	27	41	12
Soybeans	1	5	23	54	17
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	6	25	47	22
Timothy clover stand	2	12	35	47	4
Quality of hay made	2	2	15	47	34
Pasture	14	21	37	23	5
Apples	1	4	18	44	33

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